

**BERNARD P. CARVALHO, JR.**  
Mayor



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COUNTY OF KAUAI

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**News Release**

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**First enhanced crosswalk system to be installed on Po'ipū Road**

KŌLOA – A blessing was held along Po'ipū Road near Kōloa Elementary School this morning marking the beginning of the installation of Kaua'i's first In-Roadway Warning Light (IRWL) enhanced crosswalk system.

Designed to alert approaching motorists to the presence of a pedestrian at the crosswalk and enhance pedestrian safety, the IRWL system is a series of in-pavement signal lights that utilize a flashing light pattern to capture and hold drivers' attention.

This is the first of two enhanced crosswalk systems that are scheduled for installation in Kōloa this year.

R. Electric, Inc. was awarded a \$254,906 contract to design and install the two systems. The project is expected to be completed by the end of May.

"Providing Safe Routes to Schools is one of our Holo Holo 2020 projects, and the pedestrian safety improvements scheduled for Kōloa are part of this vision," said Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Jr. "We thank the Kōloa community and the County Council for working closely with us on this project that will provide a 24/7 safeguard for our children and other pedestrians in the area."

The mayor noted that this project is a classic example of private citizens working in partnership with county government that helped to make the project a reality.

“The impetus for the enhanced crosswalk system was a strong lobbying effort by Kōloa residents,” said the mayor. “They took a pro-active role in this project, which helped us to move it forward faster than it would have otherwise.”

An informal committee comprised of Kōloa residents, educators and parents and chaired by Teddy Blake, researched the various options available for near-term improvements to the crosswalks fronting Kōloa School, and passed the information on to the county.

The seed for the project was planted in 2007 when the Kōloa/Po'ipū Circulation Plan was developed to address traffic flow concerns, mitigate traffic impacts of new development in the area and create a more balanced transportation system that includes all travel modes on the south shore.

In the circulation plan, pedestrian safety was identified as a top priority especially for children walking to Kōloa School along Po'ipū, Kōloa and Waikomo roads.

Pedestrian safety is integral to Mayor Carvalho's Safe Routes to School initiative, which is on the list of initiatives/projects on the mayor's Holo Holo 2020 vision for Kaua'i.

The vision calls for all organizations, businesses, residents and visitors on Kaua'i to be part of creating an island that is sustainable, values the native culture, has a thriving and healthy economy, cares for all – keiki to kupuna – and has a responsible and user-friendly local government.



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